

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend claims 32-33. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-31 (canceled)

Do NOT  
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DV  
1 32 (currently amended): A probe comprising substrate in the shape of a plate or a  
2 strip having a flat surface and an adsorbent covalently bound to the surface, the adsorbent having  
3 a binding characteristic for binding an analyte, wherein the binding characteristic varies in a  
4 continuous gradient along one or more linear axes of the probe, wherein the probe is removably  
5 insertable into a laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometer.

6 33 (currently amended): The probe of claim 32 wherein the binding  
7 characteristic varies in a gradient along one linear axis of the probe.

8 34 (previously presented): The probe of claim 33 wherein the adsorbent is an  
9 anion exchange adsorbent and the binding characteristic varies according to charge.

10 35 (previously presented): The probe of claim 33 wherein the adsorbent is a  
11 cation exchange adsorbent and the binding characteristic varies according to charge.

12 36 (previously presented): The probe of claim 33 wherein the adsorbent is a  
13 hydrophilic adsorbent and the binding characteristic varies according to hydrophilicity.

14 37 (previously presented): The probe of claim 33 wherein the adsorbent is a  
15 hydrophobic adsorbent and the binding characteristic varies according to hydrophobicity.